

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image processing device comprising:
a character recognition unit that recognizes character codes from character images in image data and also detects character recognition ~~certainty~~ certainties, which ~~is a degree~~ are respectively degrees of correctly recognizing the character codes;

a conversion unit that converts the character images to character code data according to the character codes; and

a judgment unit that judges whether the character images should be converted to the character code data, wherein said judgment unit judges whether all character images contained in a specific character image group formed as an assembly of multiple adjoining character images should be prohibited from being converted into character code data depending on at least one of the character recognition ~~certainty~~ certainties of said character images contained in the character image group.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An image processing device of claim 1, wherein ~~[[;]]~~ said judgment unit judges that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the number of character images contained in said character image group, whose character recognition certainties are smaller than a first prescribed value, is larger than a second prescribed value.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An image processing device of claim 1, wherein ~~[[;]]~~ said judgment unit judges that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the ratio of the number of character images contained in the character image group,

whose character recognition certainties are smaller than a first prescribed value, against the total number of character images contained in said character image group is larger than a second prescribed value.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An image processing device of claim 1, wherein [[:]] said judgment unit judges that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the average of character recognition certainties of all character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a prescribed value.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An image processing device of claim 1, wherein [[:]] said judgment unit judges that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the character recognition certainty of at least one of the character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a first prescribed value and said at least one character image is in italics.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An image processing device of claim 5, wherein [[:]] said judgment unit judges that a character image is in italics if a straight line that passes through an edge of said character image in a direction character images are aligned and is perpendicular to said direction intersects with an adjacent character image.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An image processing device of claim 1, wherein [[:]] said judgment unit judges that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the character recognition certainty of at least one of the character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a first prescribed value and said at least one character image also forms a pair as an object for kerning with a character image adjacent to said at least one character image.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An image processing device of claim 7, wherein

[[;]] said character image group consists only of multiple character images that form pairs for kerning.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An image processing device of claim 1, further comprising [[;]] a character image data forming unit that forms character image data by cutting out from said image data the character images that are prohibited from being converted into character code data by said judgment unit.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An image processing device of claim 1, further comprising [[;]] a file forming unit to form an electronic file containing character code data generated by said conversion unit.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A program product for image processing in a computer-readable medium, said program product causing a computer to execute a process comprising the steps of:

- 1) recognizing character codes from character images contained in image data;
- 2) detecting character recognition ~~certainty~~ certainties, which ~~is a degree~~ are respectively degrees of correctly recognizing the character codes in step 1); and
- 3) judging whether all character images contained in a specific character image group formed as an assembly of multiple adjoining character images should be prohibited from being converted into character code data depending on at least one of the character recognition ~~certainty~~ certainties of said character images contained in the character image group.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A program product of claim 11, wherein [[;]] it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the number of character images contained in said character image group, whose character recognition certainties are smaller than a first prescribed value, is larger than a second prescribed value.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A program product of claim 11, wherein [[:]] it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the ratio of the number of character images contained in the character image group, whose character recognition certainties are smaller than a first prescribed value, against the total number of character images contained in said character image group is larger than a second prescribed value.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A program product of claim 11, wherein [[:]] it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the average of character recognition certainties of all character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a prescribed value.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A program product of claim 11, wherein [[:]] it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the character recognition certainty of at least one of the character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a first prescribed value and said at least one character image is in italics.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A program product of claim 15, wherein [[:]] it is judged at said step 3) that a character image is in italics if a straight line that passes through an edge of said character image in a direction character images are aligned and is perpendicular to said direction intersects with an adjacent character image.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A program product of claim 11, wherein [[:]] it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the character recognition certainty of at least one of the character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a first prescribed value and said at least

one character image also forms a pair as an object for kerning with a character image adjacent to said at least one character image.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A program product of claim 17, wherein [[:]] said character image group consists only of multiple character images that form pairs for kerning.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A program product of claim 11, wherein [[:]] said process further comprising the step of [[:]] 4) forming character image data by cutting out from said image data the character images that are prohibited from being converted into character code data in said step 3).

Claim 20 (currently amended): A program product of claim 11, wherein [[:]] said process further comprising the step of [[:]] 5) forming an electronic file containing character code data converted from said character images.

Claim 21 (new): An image processing method, comprising:

- 1) recognizing character codes from character images contained in image data;
- 2) detecting character recognition certainties, which are respectively degrees of correctly recognizing the character codes in step 1); and
- 3) judging whether all character images contained in a specific character image group formed as an assembly of multiple adjoining character images should be prohibited from being converted into character code data depending on at least one of the character recognition certainties of said character images contained in the character image group.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the number of character images contained in said character image group, whose character recognition certainties are smaller than a first prescribed value, is larger than a second

prescribed value.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the ratio of the number of character images contained in the character image group, whose character recognition certainties are smaller than a first prescribed value, against the total number of character images contained in said character image group is larger than a second prescribed value.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the average of character recognition certainties of all character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a prescribed value.

Claim 25 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the character recognition certainty of at least one of the character images contained in said character image group is smaller than a first prescribed value and said at least one character image is in italics.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 25, wherein it is judged at said step 3) that a character image is in italics if a straight line that passes through an edge of said character image in a direction character images are aligned and is perpendicular to said direction intersects with an adjacent character image.

Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein it is judged at said step 3) that all character images contained in said character image group should be prohibited from being converted into character code data if the character recognition certainty of at least one of the character images contained in said character image

group is smaller than a first prescribed value and said at least one character image also forms a pair as an object for kerning with a character image adjacent to said at least one character image.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 27, wherein said character image group consists only of multiple character images that form pairs for kerning.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein said process further comprising the step of 4) forming character image data by cutting out from said image data the character images that are prohibited from being converted into character code data in said step 3).

Claim 30 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein said process further comprising the step of 5) forming an electronic file containing character code data converted from said character images.